



District 10 Trustee Newsletter

July 2026 | Welcome to a New Program Year

Dear VFW, VFWA, MOC, MOCA National Home Life Members, Department Chairmen, and Department Commanders/Presidents,

As we begin a new VFW/VFWA program year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to each of you for your continued dedication and support of the VFW National Home.

Every membership, donation, volunteer hour, and act of support helps strengthen the mission of providing a safe, nurturing community for our veterans and military families.

Please share this newsletter with your department chairmen, district chairmen, and members by including it in your monthly mailings, newsletters, or social media pages. The more we share the story of the VFW National Home, the more people we inspire to support its incredible mission.



OUR HISTORY

"Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living Since 1925."

Founded in 1925, the VFW National Home was created to fulfill the VFW promise to “honor the dead by helping the living.”

That promise began with a simple but powerful idea: no veteran's family should be left without help during a time of need.

The dream became a reality when local cattleman Corey Spencer generously donated 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, providing a place where veterans' families could rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Soon afterward, the National Home welcomed its very first resident family—a widowed mother and her six children who had unexpectedly lost their primary source of support.

What began as a single farmhouse has grown into a beautiful, thriving community that continues to serve military and veteran families facing life's unexpected challenges.

Today, the National Home remains a place where families can heal, grow, and build brighter futures while surrounded by compassion, stability, and opportunity.

 **Learn more about the history of the VFW National Home by watching this short video:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x24Pj5pJuSU&t=4s>



Stay Connected

 **Join our Facebook Group:**
District 10 – VFW National Home

Throughout this year, my goal as your District 10 Trustee is to keep our departments informed about the many services, programs, and success stories happening at the VFW National Home while supporting each department in reaching its National Home goals.

Together, we can continue sharing the story of the National Home and ensuring its mission remains strong for future generations.



Home Front Heroes

The newest edition of **Home Front Heroes** should have arrived in your mailbox.

If you have already finished reading your copy, please consider sharing it with another member, a veteran, or someone interested in learning more about the National Home.

Every issue contains inspiring stories and valuable information about the families whose lives have been changed through your generosity and support.



Attention Department National Home Chairmen

- As we begin the new program year, it is time to update your department's National Home Life Membership records. Please send your updated list of deceased Life Members to: **Sue Alverson- salverson@vfwnationalhome.org**
 - Keeping these records, current allows the National Home to maintain accurate membership files and prevents correspondence from being mailed to families after the loss of a loved one. Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.
 - Please send me a small blurb with pictures on how you Post, Auxiliary, District, Department, and all levels within your GRAND is promoting the programs of the home and I will include them in the newsletter and our Facebook page.
-



Information Spotlight

Life at the VFW National Home

The VFW National Home is much more than a campus—it is a community built on hope, healing, and opportunity.

Nestled in a peaceful rural setting, the National Home provides a safe environment where military and veteran families can rebuild their lives while remaining surrounded by support and encouragement.

The community includes:

-  43 single-family homes
-  Child Development Center
-  Veteran Resource Center
-  Gymnasium
-  Library
-  Playgrounds
-  Computer and Science Labs
-  Walking and Hiking Trails
-  Community Gathering Spaces

Every part of the campus is designed to create stability while helping families prepare for successful, independent futures.



Programs Supporting Our Veterans

The VFW National Home continues to expand opportunities that empower veterans and their families through programs such as:

- Employment Services
- Educational Support
- On-site Veteran Service Officers
- Veteran Navigator Assistance
- Heroes to Hives
- Guitars for Vets
- Regenerative Agriculture for Veterans (RAVE)
- 4-H Youth Program, where children raise pigs and rabbits that compete at the local county fair

These programs provide valuable life skills, career development, education, recreation, and therapeutic opportunities that strengthen both veterans and their families.



National Home History Corner

Honoring Our Past... Building Our Future

Did You Know?

- Founded in 1925, the VFW National Home was established to fulfill the VFW's enduring promise: **"Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."**
- Nearly a century later, that promise remains at the heart of everything the National Home does.
- The vision became reality when local cattleman Corey Spencer donated 472 acres of farmland near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, creating a place where veterans' families could find hope after tragedy.
- The first family welcomed to the National Home was a widowed mother and her six children who suddenly lost their husband and father.
- They found not only a home, but a caring community determined to help them rebuild their lives.
- Today, what began as a single farmhouse has grown into a beautiful campus with:
 - Educational resources
 - Recreational facilities
 - Specialized veteran services

The National Home continues serving military and veteran families from across the nation.

As we begin another program year, let us remember:

Every Life Membership, every donation, and every volunteer hour helps continue a promise that has remained strong for more than 100 years.

 Take a few minutes to learn more about the remarkable history of the VFW National Home:

Our Story – VFW National Home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x24Pj5pJuSU&t=4s>

"Our history reminds us why our mission still matters today."



Coming This Year to VFW National Home History Corner

Each month we will spotlight another chapter of the National Home's incredible story.

August: The Four Pillars of the VFW National Home

September: Meet the Veteran Resource Center

October: Then & Now – How the National Home Has Changed Over 100 Years

November: Stories of Hope – Families Who Found a New Beginning

December: Holiday Traditions at the National Home

January: Heroes to Hives – Veterans Finding Purpose Through Beekeeping

February: R.A.V.E. (Regenerative Agriculture for Veterans)

March: Guitars for Vets – Healing Through Music

April: 4-H at the National Home – Learning, Leadership, and Responsibility

May: Child Development Center – Investing in the Next Generation



Thank You

Whether you recruit a new Life Member, make a donation, volunteer your time, or simply share the National Home's story, you are making a lasting difference.

Because of your continued support, families facing difficult circumstances are able to find stability, community, and hope.

Thank you for everything you do for the VFW National Home and for the veterans and military families we proudly serve.

District 10 Trustee's Thought for the Month

"Every time we share the story of the VFW National Home, we strengthen its future. Our support ensures that no veteran or military family has to face life's challenges alone. Together, we are preserving a legacy of compassion that began in 1925 and continues today."

— **Shirlee Frias**
District 10 Trustee
VFW National Home
2022–2028

Together, we continue to make a difference—one family at a time.